NOTE XII.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF PROSTOMIS (CUCUJIDÆ) FROM CEYLON AND A SHORT ACCOUNT OF ITS LARVA.

BY

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Prostomis Schlegelii, spec. nov.

Elongate, much depressed, narrowed behind, bright reddish brown, shining. Head very broad, moderately convex, obliquely narrowed behind the eyes, which are rather large and prominent, very finely and sparingly punctured on the disc, the punctures rather stronger near the margins and much closer and somewhat stronger behind the eyes, with a rather feebly impressed and punctured line at the base not reaching the sides; epistoma extremely finely and sparingly punctured, with a distinct impression at the base; mandibles large, moderately convex, somewhat finely punctured and coriaceous, strongly dentate and the apex bifid; jugular processes sinuous, only slightly converging anteriorly. Prothorax transverse, extremely finely and sparingly punctured on the disc, more strongly near the sides, the median line very indistinct; all the angles rounded; sides feebly arcuate. Scutellum impunctate. Elytra nearly twice as long as the head (exclusive of the mandibles) and prothorax together, considerably narrowed behind, moderately strongly punctate

striate, the interstices not very broad and impunctate, the striæ disappearing posteriorly leaving the apex smooth. Under side coloured as above, except the jugular processes, the mouth-parts etc. which are almost piceous, and the middle of the sternum which is rather paler reddish brown; prosternum finely and not very closely punctured; meso- and metasternum more distinctly and closely punctured especially near the sides; abdominal segments rather more closely punctured. Legs reddish brown, the knees and outer margins of the tibiæ darker, tarsi pale testaceous. — Length 10—12 mm.

Hab. Ceylon (Lewis, Braine etc.).

The males may be known by the larger mandibles and greater development of the lateral projection.

This species has the head and prothorax proportionately broader than any other with which I am acquainted; it is closely allied to *Prostomis pacificus* Fairm. from Viti (Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr. (6) I. p. 256), but differs not only in the above particulars but also in having the mandibles coriaceous and the head more strongly punctured behind the eyes. I may here remark that *P. pacificus* and *P. Schlegelii* both differ from *P. Atkinsonii* Waterh. (Ent. Mo. Mag. XIV. p. 26), described from Tasmania, in having more convex mandibles and larger and more prominent eyes. *P. morsitans* Pasc. from Darjeeling may readily be distinguished from all the other species of the genus by having the jugular processes very approximate at the apex and one process decidedly longer than the other.

Mr. George Lewis during his recent visit to Ceylon obtained numerous specimens of *P. Schlegelii* and of its larva. He informs me that they were found in clusters under loose bark. The larva is so similar to that of the European *P. mandibularis* Fabr. described by Erichson (Archiv für Naturgesch. 1847. I. p. 285) and Curtis (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. 1854. p. 37; pl. V. figs. 23—32) that it will not be necessary to give a detailed description of it. The average length of the specimens before me is $12^1/_2$ mm.;

they are of a pale straw colour, with the alimentary canal shining through. The only discrepancies, with the exception of size, I can find between Curtis' figure and description of *P. mandibularis* and these specimens, are, that whilst in the former the mandibles are narrowed towards the tip and the margins of the apical segment of the abdomen appear tuberculate when greatly magnified, in the latter the mandibles are strong and of almost equal width throughout their length, and the entire apical half as well as the sides of the terminal segment of the abdomen are distinctly and moderately strongly tuberculate.

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